

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** 8/18/06  
**Department Name:** Human Services Commission  
**Department No.:**  
**Agenda Date:** 9/12/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Marshall Abrams Chair  
Human Services Commission

**STAFF CONTACT:** Nancy J. Madsen, Staff to Human Services Commission  
681-4078

**SUBJECT:** Human Services Commission Funding Priorities for Grant Recommendations

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### Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the Human Services Commission's Funding Priority Statement for grant allocations to nonprofit community-based organizations for the three-year Human Services Fund grant cycle, fiscal years 2007-2010.

### The Recommendation is primarily aligned with:

- Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.
- Goal No. 2. A Safe And Healthy Community In Which To Live, Work, And Visit.
- Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.
- Goal No. 6. A County Government that is Accessible, Open, and Citizen-Friendly.
- Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

The recommendation is consistent with the County's organizational values regarding its customers. We respect economy in government and foster collaboration among our recipients.

### Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Human Services Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to study needs for services countywide and to recommend nonprofit organizations for grants from the Human Services Fund and from three child abuse prevention and intervention funds, as shown in the following chart.

| <b>Funds Administered by Human Services Commission</b>  | <b>Amount/Year</b> | <b>Source</b>  | <b>Purpose of Grants to Nonprofits</b>  | <b>Grant Cycle</b> |
|---|--------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Human Services Fund                                     | \$1,178,000        | County General Fund  | Services to county residents in need    | 2007-2010          |
| Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Fund | \$117,995          | State General Fund   | Child Abuse Prevention                  | 2008-2011          |
| Children's Trust Fund                                   | \$132,000          | Birth Certificate and "Kids" license plate fees                        | Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention | 2008-2011          |
| Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Fund             | \$22,242           | Federal funds pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act | Family Support Services                 | 2008-2011          |

Current Human Services Fund grants will end on June 30, 2007. The chart below summarizes these grants, sorted by the type of service provided.

| <b>TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDED</b>       | <b># of Grants</b> | <b>Total Grants</b> | <b>% of Total Grant Amount</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Advocacy                              | 14                 | \$262,500           | 22%                            |
| Day Care for Infants/children/seniors | 10                 | \$144,000           | 12%                            |
| Food                                  | 11                 | \$241,500           | 21%                            |
| Housing/Shelter                       | 10                 | \$192,000           | 16%                            |
| Mental Health                         | 6                  | \$104,000           | 9%                             |
| Support Services to Families/Seniors  | 14                 | \$234,000           | 20%                            |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>65</b>          | <b>\$1,178,000</b>  | <b>100%</b>                    |

In preparation for the next three-year (2007-2010) Human Services grant allocation process, the Human Services Commission:

- Sent a questionnaire to approximately 650 nonprofit agencies countywide to seek input regarding ongoing and emerging human services needs
- Held public hearings in Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara for further input regarding human services needs

- Created a North County Outreach Special Purpose Committee that spent one year studying the needs of the North County and the barriers to grant application that are perceived by nonprofit organizations in the region
- Analyzed all data from the public hearings, questionnaires and the report from the North County Outreach Committee
- Held a retreat in July 2006 where it consolidated the data and information gathered from the questionnaire, public hearings and the Special Purpose Committee and established proposed funding priorities for the next grants (see Recommended Funding Priority Statement below)

The results of the Commission's inquiry confirm the findings from the County's 2006 Resident Survey. Just as the County Survey identified Affordable Housing, Homelessness and Crime/Drugs/Gangs as within the top ten issues, the Commission also found that "Housing and Shelter," "Mental Health Services," "Homeless Services," "Family/Youth Services" and "Substance Abuse Services" were the top issues identified in the questionnaire as "high need." In addition, many speakers at the three public hearings throughout the County highlighted the increasing needs of the rapidly growing senior population.

In addition to echoing the County's findings from its Survey, the funding priorities proposed by the Commission are in alignment with the Critical Strategic Issues set out in the County's Strategic Scan, particularly with the issues of "Housing for all segments of the population," "Service Delivery/Social Services" and "Accommodate Demographic Changes."

The proposed priorities stated are somewhat different from the priorities that were stated three years ago in connection with the current grants that will end on 6/30/07. Specifically, the recommended priorities for the next grants identify preferred types of services and also identify priority populations. Crisis intervention and substance abuse treatment have been added to the services list, and people in rural areas have been added to the populations list.

The Commission has learned that some programs have the opportunity to acquire state or federal money if matching funds from local government are available; these "matches" are frequently not dollar per dollar, but can be as favorable to the program as four state or federal dollars for every local government dollar. The Commission has also learned that many private foundations require a grant of local government dollars before the foundation provides funds; although this is not technically a "matching" requirement, agencies report that a grant from the County, even if small, creates significant "leverage" for other private funds because of the County's approval of the program. Programs that require a local government match will be given special consideration.

As the Commission prepares to accept grant applications and make grant recommendations it requests Board approval of the proposed "Funding Priority Statement" set forth below.

### **RECOMMENDED FUNDING PRIORITY STATEMENT**

"The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors values the accountability, customer service and efficiency of local nonprofit agencies and their volunteers in serving the basic needs of its vulnerable populations. Since 1977, the County has partnered with nonprofit agencies to improve the lives of the people of Santa Barbara County. In order to assure that the County Human Services Commission funds are allocated in areas with the greatest need, the Commission analyzed data, sent a questionnaire to approximately 650 programs, and held

three public hearings throughout the County. In addition, a special task force investigated the growing needs of northern Santa Barbara County.

The Human Services Commission invites all nonprofit agencies that serve residents of Santa Barbara County to apply for a grant. The Commission has identified proposed priorities in recommending programs for funding:

### **SERVICE PRIORITIES**

- Access to services that support individuals and strengthen families (e.g. information and referral services, family resource centers)
- Advocacy for services that support individuals and strengthen families (e.g. legal services, ombudsman services)
- Crisis intervention
- Food
- Mental health treatment
- Protection from violence, abuse and neglect
- Shelter
- Substance abuse treatment

#### ***Priority Populations***

- Children and youth
- Homeless
- Older Adults
- People in rural areas of Santa Barbara County

#### ***Special Considerations***

- Collaborative proposals
- New programs that specifically address one or more of our service priorities
- Programs that require a local government match

Santa Barbara County Human Services Commission grant funding is not intended for arts, sports, recreation, or cultural programs or for programs of other public or government agencies.”

Next Steps for the Commission: After the approval of the Funding Priority Statement, the Commission will disseminate a Notice of Available Funding to the nonprofit community and will accept and review grant applications. All applicants will be required to state not only the number of clients to be served, but also to describe the client outcomes to be achieved through the program. Specific Performance Targets will be articulated that will measure client outcomes. Grantee performance will be evaluated by the Commission and staff on an ongoing basis, through quarterly reports on each grantee’s Performance Targets and through Commission site visits to the grantees. If and when necessary, the Commission requires corrective action of a grantee that is not meeting its performance measures.

As a part of the grant allocations process, the Commission plans to work with the Board and the County Executive Office to address funding issues and to seek an increase in the Human Services Fund. The Commission has not sought an increase in funding since 2001; current grantees have struggled to maintain services without any sort of increase in funding from the County. Based on the Los Angeles/San

Bernardino/Orange County Consumer Price Index provided by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$1.00 in July 2002 (the end of the first year of grants after the fund was increased starting July 2001) is worth only \$0.84 today. Annual cost-of living increases are projected to continue, and the nonprofit service providers are severely challenged as they attempt to meet the ongoing needs of their consumers with a “fixed income” from the Human Services Fund. In order to help the service providers to continue to be effective, an increase in the Human Services Fund is needed.

In addition to an increase in the cost of doing business, the Commission observes an increased need for human services throughout the county. New services are needed, such as new drug treatment programs, and demand is also growing for the ongoing and necessary services now being provided through Human Services Fund grants. For example, during all three public hearings and in questionnaire responses the Commission heard about:

- significant increases in the older adult population and the increasing needs for services that address senior abuse and health care needs
- an urgent and increasing need for mental health and substance abuse services (particularly the need for methamphetamine detox and treatment in Mid County and North County),
- the need for more food services as individuals and families struggle with poverty subsistence
- the need for more services to the homeless, especially homeless children, as increasing housing costs force many into congested housing and homelessness, and
- the need for more services for the county’s youth, including after-school prevention programs to avoid the need for intervention programs later

The current funding level for the Human Services Fund is \$1,178,000. The Commission will seek a \$366,000 increase in the Fund for the next three-year grant cycle (fiscal years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010). Of the additional amount requested, \$266,000 represents the amount needed to address the effects of cost-of-living-adjustment increases over the last several years. The remaining \$100,000 of the requested increase would help to address escalating human service needs in the County. When the Commission brings its grant recommendations to the Board in June 2007, it will indicate specific increases in services and outcomes that will be available to the people of the County if the Human Services Fund is increased by the requested amount.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Human Services grants are not mandated by law. Approval of the recommendations will not result in any change in service levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no fiscal impact by approving the Human Services Commission’s funding priorities.

**Special Instructions:**

Send one copy of a Certified Minute Order to Nancy Madsen, Human Services Program Administrator, c/o the Public Health Department, 300 North San Antonio Road, Room B102.

**Concurrences:** None required.